entitled 'Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan' (PYKKA), which aims at providing basic sports infrastructure in all villages and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of 10 years and providing access to organized sports competitions at block, district, state and national levels. The Scheme provides for financial assistance for the development of playfields, procurement of sports equipment, and organizing competitions.

Further, the Ministry and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) are operating a number of schemes *viz.*, Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations, National Sports Development Fund, Talent Search and Training, National Sports Talent Contest Scheme, Army Boys Sports Companies Scheme, SAI Training Centres Scheme, Special Area Games Scheme, Centres of Excellence Scheme, National Coaching Scheme, which aim at broad-basing of sports in the country; talent identification and development; achieving excellence in sports in different disciplines at international level etc.

Further, the Government has launched a major scheme of Rs. 678 crore for the training and preparation of our athletes for their participation in the Commonwealth Games (CWG), 2010. This scheme provides focused and need-based support to all the sports disciplines included in CWG 2010, with a view to maximizing our medal prospects. With the objective of providing basic sports infrastructure and access to organized sports at the village level, the Scheme of PYKKA has been launched from this financial year. Apart from promoting mass participation in sports, it would also widen the base of talented sportspersons in the country.

(f) Physical education is already compulsory from primary to secondary stage (classes I-X).

Construction workers for Commonwealth Games, 2010

1162. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction workers engaged in Commonwealth Games 2010 are not getting their legal dues like minimum wages, social society benefit;

(b) the total number of contractors engaged, workers engaged, number of accidents occurred and dispute filed in labour department; and

(c) whether all construction workers are registered under Delhi Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) No, Sir. The construction workers engaged for projects of Commonwealth Games, 2010 are getting their legal dues.

(b) 52 contractors have been engaged for the projects being implemented by Government of NCT of Delhi; Delhi Development Authority and Central Public Works Department. No. of

workers engaged is not static and keeps on changing according to requirement of works from time to time. So far, 2 accidents have been reported and these cases were filed in the Labour Department.

(c) Most of the construction workers, other than purely temporary labour, are registered under Delhi Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Performance of Indian sportspersons

1163. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's record in sports is pathetic and has such a limited presence in the world of sports at the international level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the initiatives taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the performance of Indian sportspersons in international sporting events?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (DR. M.S. GILL): (a) and (b) India's performance in international sports events is showing improvement. India won one gold and two silver medals at Beijing Olympics 2008.

India's performance at other international sports events has also shown improvement. India stood first in the medal tally at the 3rd Commonwealth Youth Games, 2008 held at Pune with 76 Medals (33 Gold + 26 Silver + 17 Bronze). India's position in the medals tally at Commonwealth Games, 2006 held at Melbourne was fourth, wherein India won 50 medals (22 Gold + 17 Silver + 11 Bronze). India secured 7th position at Asian Games 2006 at Doha by winning 51 medals (9 Gold + 18 Silver + 24 Bronze).

(c) Government strategy to improve Indian position in international sports competitions includes provision of necessary support to the National Sports Federations for the training and preparation of national athletes. This includes the creation of state-of-the-art sports infrastructure, competition exposure (both domestic and international), equipment support, scientific support, engagement of coaches, including foreign coaches etc. For the first time the Government has launched a major scheme of Rs. 678 crore for the training and preparation of our athletes for their participation in the Commonwealth Games (CWG), 2010. This scheme provides focused and need-based support to all the sports disciplines included in CWG 2010, with a view to maximizing our medal prospects. With the objective of providing basic sports infrastructure and access to organized sports at the village level, the Panchayat Yuva Krida Khel Abhiyan has been launched from this financial year. Apart from promoting mass participation in sports, it would also widen the base of talented sportspersons in the country.